

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5503

AMCONSUL ZURICH

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4114

ZURICH FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SF, US

SUBJECT: INKATHA SEC GEN'S VIEW OF US-SA INITIATIVES

1. SIBUSIS M.E. BENGU, SECRETARY GENERAL OF INKATHA
YENKULULEKO YESIZWE (NATIONAL CULTURAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT)
AND A RECENT IV GRANTEE, CALLED AT CONGEN DURBAN SEPT 9 TO
PROVIDE REPORT OF HIS TRIP AND EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR
OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT US.

2. DURING CALL ON CONSUL GENERAL, BENGU MADE TWO POINTS
RE KISSINGER-VORSTER TALKS WHICH, HE CLAIMED, REPRESENTED
GENERAL VIEW OF INKATHA MEMBERSHIP AT LARGE:

A. BENGU SAID THAT MOST INKATHA BLACKS DID NOT FIND MUCH TO
HOPE FOR IN PRESENT TALKS. MANY FRANKLY VIEWED TALKS AS WAY
OF MASKING "SECRET" US SUPPORT FOR SAG WHICH HAD DEVELOPED
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OUT OF US FEAR ABOUT COMMUNIST INROADS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

BENGU SAID THAT SA BLACKS WOULD REGARD PROTRACTED TALKS WITH LITTLE OR NO RESULT AS CONFIRMATION OF THEIR SUSPICIONS. HE STRESSED URGENCY OF ACHIEVING SOME CONCRETE BREAKTHROUGH THROUGH TALKS--SOMETHING PUBLICALLY UNDERSTANDABLE AND NOT REPRESENTED AS MERELY "PROGRESS IN PRIVATE".

B. BENGU SAID INKATHA BLACKS VIEWED WITH DISFAVOR ANY INDICATION THAT RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA, AS ISSUES, RATED A HIGHER PRIORITY THAN SITUATION IN SA ITSELF. BENGU SAID ANY PUBLIC INDICATION BY US SPOKESMEN THAT THIS IN FACT WAS THE CASE WOULD DRAW IMMEDIATE CRITICISM FROM SA BLACKS.

3. BENGU WENT ON TO SPEAK OF DIFFICULTY INKATHA LEADERS WERE ENCOUNTERING IN KEEPING YOUNGER BLACK MEMBERS "IN LINE". PROCESS WAS DIFFICULT BUT BENGU HOPED THAT BUTHELEZI'S LEADERSHIP WOULD BE RESPECTED BY INKATHA RANK AND FILE AND THAT CLEAVAGES WITHIN GROUP COULD BE AVOIDED. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT EXCLUDE THAT INKATHA AS AN ORGANIZATION MIGHT, IN THE END, BE "RADICALIZED". REFERRING TO HIS RECENT IV EXPERIENCE, BENGU THOUGHT THAT MANY OF THE YOUNGER BLACKS (30-YEAR OLDS, AS HE REFERRED TO THEM) COULD BENEFIT BY THE BROADENED OUT-LOOK AVAILABLE THROUGH TRAVEL ABROAD UNDER PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE ONE WHICH HE HAD JUST PARTICIPATED.

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